

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



April 2021

This month's fundraising update has been given over to a fundraiser organised by the Cardiff Amnesty Group in partnership with the fundraising platform Wonderful. They're inviting people to take place in a virtual walk to Iran to raise money for Amnesty International UK and raise awareness of three British/Iranian citizens imprisoned in Iran. For more info. on this great idea and to get involved, read on!

London to Tehran Challenge

What is the challenge?

If they can't come to us, we'll go to them! This May, we are inviting everyone to walk, run, scoot, skate and cycle the 2,730 miles from London to Tehran in support of Amnesty International's work to free British citizens unjustly imprisoned in Iran.

You can take on the challenge as an individual or as part of a team and the lovely people at Wonderful will have a central page tracking all of our combined miles. We can show those unjustly imprisoned in Iran that we are with them every step of the way. Together we will #BringThemHome to their loved ones in the UK.

Why get involved?

As lockdown restrictions ease we are all relishing our new freedom. But this is not true of everyone. The Iranian authorities continue to arbitrarily detain dual-national citizens in horrendous conditions. Amnesty International are currently working to support Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Anoosheh Ashoori and Mehran Raouf but it is unknown how many other British-Iranians may be currently held in Iran.

UPDATE: we recently learnt that Nazanin has been convicted of a fresh charge and sentenced to another year in prison. Read more [here](#).

We want the London to Tehran Challenge to shine a spotlight on their cases and put pressure on the UK government to use all the tools at its disposal to ensure that unjustly detained British citizens are freed and able to return home to their loved ones in the UK.

GET IN TOUCH: fundraise@amnesty.org.uk / 020 7033 1650

We are committed to the highest standards in fundraising.
Read our promise to you: [amnesty.org.uk/promise](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/promise)



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How to get involved?

Amnesty International UK have partnered with Wonderful.org for this challenge. You can register your interest on their website ready to create your own fundraising page from 1 May by going to: www.wonderful.org/milesbetter.

Throughout May each team and individual fundraiser will be working towards their own total miles challenge. You can log your miles on your Wonderful.org fundraising page by either manually entering them or by downloading the 'Strava' app and connecting this to your fundraising page to automatically your miles automatically for you. Please note, you'll only be able to attach one Strava account to your page. If you are setting up a single fundraising page for a team you will need to decide who will update the miles to the page and how frequently.

The Cardiff Amnesty Group will be taking part as a team so get in touch if you'd like to know more by emailing amnesty.cardiff@btinternet.com.

There will be a central page on Wonderful.org where the total miles of all those taking part in the challenge will be tracked. It's an incredible distance that we are taking on and every mile will count so please get involved. This is also an opportunity to support Amnesty International's work to help free people like Nazanin, Anoosheh and Mehran. Together we can achieve this goal!

Why Wonderful.org?

Wonderful.org offer fee-free fundraising, meaning that *every penny* that you raise will go directly to Amnesty International UK to continue their incredible work.

This is made possible by Wonderful.org only accepting donations via bank transfer. When your supporters click to donate to your fundraiser they will be taken to the app or website for their bank with a payment set up for them to confirm. Card payments come with a charge so working in this way Wonderful.org can continue to make sure that all the money raised goes directly to the charities that matter to us rather than on bank charges.

If you have any questions about this please contact the fundraising team at Amnesty International UK by emailing fundraise@amnesty.org.uk.

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If any of your kind donors are unable to use mobile or online banking there will be an option to post a cheque directly to Amnesty International UK.

Actions alongside the challenge

The aim of this challenge is to show how many of us in the UK care deeply about the situation in which Nazanin, Anoosheh, Mehran and their families find themselves. We can do this by using social media to share photographs of us going the extra mile using hashtags: #FreeNazanin #FreeAnoosheh #FreeMehran #BringThemHome. If you are using Twitter you can also tag @BorisJohnson @DominicRaab @FCDOGovUK and @AmnestyUK.

We would encourage people to make signs and banners in support of Nazanin, Anoosheh and Mehran along the central message of 'Bring Them Home'.

Please also share the current petition regarding Anoosheh Ashoori's case:

www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/help-get-retired-father-home-his-family.

The Cardiff Amnesty group will share information about any additional petitions or actions throughout May so if you would like to be kept up to date on this please do email amnesty.cardiff@btinternet.com. If you are happy for your photos to be shared by Cardiff Amnesty or aren't a social media user please also email your photos to the same email address.

Information on this campaign

The central challenge group will circulate updates on the cases of Nazanin, Anoosheh and Mehran throughout May but you can use the information below to help build your fundraising page or visit the Cardiff Amnesty website here: www.amnestycardiff.org.

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Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

Nazanin was first detained in spring 2016 where she was placed in solitary confinement for over 8 months and denied access to her lawyer pending her grossly unfair trial that September. She was sentenced to 5 years in prison on false national security charges based on evidence that to this day remains a secret.



Nazanin's sentence ended on Sunday 7 March but she was then told she was unable to leave Iran as she faced a second court hearing for a further charge Sunday 14 March. In April she learnt that she has been sentenced to another year in prison.

Her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella remain in the UK and on the 8 March, together with AIUK, delivered a petition of support for Nazanin to the Iranian embassy that had over 160,000 signatures.

Anoosheh Ashoori

Anoosheh has been detained since 2017 and in 2018 he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for trumped up charges of spying on the Iranian government. He was denied the right of a lawyer of his choosing and the trial relied on torture-tainted "confessions" to convict him of "cooperating with a hostile state against the Islamic Republic."

During his time in Tehran's Evin prison he was able to get messages to the world of the horrendous conditions via messages recorded by his wife in London. Anoosheh's words were instrumental in shedding a light on the enormous risk of Covid-19 in Evin prison.



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There continues to be serious concerns for Anoosheh's mental health and safety during his imprisonment in Tehran as he is frequently denied access to calls with his loved ones in the UK. His daughter, Elika, states it clearly when she says her father is a "hostage" who is "being used as something that's bigger than him" by Iranian authorities.

Mehran Raof

Mehran was arrested in October of last year and was subjected to incommunicado detention for one month before being allowed a single call to a distant relative in Iran. He has been denied contact with his immediate family in the UK, denied his right to access legal counsel and is still being held in solitary confinement. Mehran is a labour rights activist and was arrested during a crackdown by Iranian authorities in October 2020. Other activists arrested at the time have recently been sentenced to up to 16 years in prison for shining a light on the unfair working conditions and poor living standards in Iran.

Mehran is still awaiting trial later this month.

Thank you for supporting Amnesty International UK in their important work and joining us to take on this solidarity challenge.

We are with these innocent people every step of the way and will continue to fight to bring them home.

Get in Touch

If you have any questions about this fundraising venture or any other questions relating to fundraising with your local group, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Richard from the Community Fundraising and events team using the details below:

Email: richard.glynn@amnesty.org.uk

Phone: 020 7033 1650

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